

## Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /111 W

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R 022051Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3091

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: DEVELOPING ELECTORAL SCENE

REF: BA 5596

1. SUMMARY: BALBIN CONTINUES TO CONFER WITH LEADERS OF OTHER PARTIES. SEVERAL SMALL PARTIES HAVE INDICATED THEY PROBABLY WILL HAVE CANDIDATES IN THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL RACE. THERE IS CONTINUING SPECULATION ON FORMATION OF LEFTIST FRONT, BUT THIS SEEMS UNLIKELY PROSPECT AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. HAVING ALREADY MET WITH PERON (SEE BA5596), UCR LEADER BALBIN YESTERDAY MET WITH OSCAR ALENDE AND FRANCISCO MANRIQUE, LEADERS OF THE PARTIDO INTRANSIGENTE AND THE ALIANZA FEDERALISTA, RESPECTIVELY. ALL REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS, BUT WELL INFORMED SOURCES REPORTED BALBIN'S MAJOR THEME TO HAVE BEEN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A BROAD CONSENSUS AND THE AVOIDANCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CONFRONTATION IN THE COMING ELECTIONS.

3. IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT MANRIQUE WILL DECIDE TO RUN. IN RESPONSE TO NEWMEN'S QUESTIONS YESTERDAY HE SIMPLY

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SAID THAT THE PARTY CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE. JUAN

CORAL'S SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PST) HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT IT WILL HAVE A CANDIDATE IN THE COMING ELECTIONS, AS HAS AMERICO GHIOLDI'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (PSD). AT THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE SPECTRUM, NUEVA FUERZA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALVARO ALSOGARAY AND EMILIO HARDOY WILL PROBABLY BE ITS PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. HENCE IF A PERON-BALBIN TICKET BECOMES A REALITY, IT WILL NOT RUN UNOPPOSED. HOWEVER, THE THREE PARTIES MENTIONED ABOVE ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR PERCENT OF THE VOTE BETWEEN THEM. THEY CAN HARDLY BE CONSIDERED EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION. SHOULD HE DECIDE TO RUN MANRIQUE, WHO PROBABLY SCENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REAP A GOOD SHARE OF THE NON-PERONIST VOTE, WOULD BE SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. FUTHER IF A PERON-BALBIN TICKET IS NOT FORTHCOMING, THE UCR WILL DOUBTLESS RUN ITS OWN SLATE OF CANDIDATES.

4. MEANWHILE, THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FORMATION OF A UNITED PARTY OF THE LEFT COMPRISING THE DISAFFECTED PERONIST LEFT WING, THE ALFONSIN FORCE FROM THE UCR, THE ALENDE-SUELDO GROUP FROM THE ALIANZA POPULAR, AND OTHERS. WHILE THERE INDEED IS SOME IDENTITY OF VIEWS AMONG THESE GROUPS, AND WHILE THE FORMATION OF SUCH A PARTY IS LOGICAL ENOUGH IN THEORY, THERE ARE VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH SEEM TO MILITATE AGAINST IT AT THIS TIME. FIRST OF ALL THE ALENDE-BUELDO GROUP HAS ALREADY SAID THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT A JOINT PERON-BALBIN SLATE AND THAT THEY FAVOR A NATIONAL UNITY EFFORT. FURTHER THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCA), ALSO A PART OF THE ALIANZA POPULAR HAS INDICATED THAT IT TOO SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL UNITY EFFORT AND WILL SUPPORT THE PERONISTS IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. THE ALFONSIN FORCES, MOREOVER, SO FAR HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL NOT BOLT THE UCR EVEN IF A PERON-BALBIN TICKET BECOMES A REALITY (STILL HIGHLY UNCERTAIN). AT THE MOMENT, THEREFORE, THIS WOULD SEEM TO LEAVE THE PERONIST LEFT WING AS THE ONLY POSSIBLE COMPONENT OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH A LEFTIST UNITY GROUP; THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET FAR ON THEIR OWN.

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